



# **HIV PREVENTION GRANTEES**

**AND**

## **RELATED DIVISION OF AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL SERVICES**

**MAY 2002**

**PREVENTION AND EDUCATION  
(PAE) UNIT**

**James E. McGreevey  
Governor**

**Clifton R. Lacy, M.D.  
Commissioner**

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# INTRODUCTION

Through its Prevention and Education (PAE) unit, Division of AIDS Prevention and Control (DOAPC), the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) supports 31 community-based HIV prevention projects. Among the projects, 28 target urban, African American and Latino men, women and youth who are at risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV either sexually or by injection drug use. Four additional projects target migrant farm workers, Native Americans, school-based youth, and the Black Clergy. Projects, generally located in urban areas heavily impacted by the HIV epidemic, are distributed throughout the State in 17 cities and 12 counties. As of January 1, 2002, approximately \$3.5 million in State and \$4.3 million in federal funds provide nearly \$7.8 million to support these community-based projects.

The recommendations of the New Jersey HIV Prevention Community Planning Group (NJHPCPG), a statewide planning body consisting of NJDHSS staff, representatives of other state and local governmental agencies, community-based organizations and community consumers of HIV prevention services, provide the framework for HIV prevention initiatives funded by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

The current model upon which the initiatives are based has several salient features. First, it requires that HIV prevention activities address the prevention and risk-reduction needs of specific populations who are at high risk for HIV infection due to the behaviors in which they engage. Second, the model shifts the focus of prevention activities to prevention skills enhancement, which includes the dissemination of HIV prevention information. Lastly, the framework causes providers of HIV prevention services to base their HIV prevention activities on the principles of behavior change science and, particularly, the transtheoretical model. This approach represents a shift from previous models emphasizing the dissemination of information within didactic settings to a wide variety of *non-specific* audiences.

Funded HIV prevention projects employ a combination of HIV prevention interventions to provide services to targeted populations. These interventions are interactive, client-centered, and tailored to meet the prevention and risk-reduction needs of targeted high-risk individuals and populations. Targeted populations and specific prevention activities and strategies are also based upon the recommendations of the NJHPCPG and include street and community outreach, multi-session small group health education/risk reduction (HE/RR), individual-level HIV prevention case management services (PCM), and community-level interventions (CLI).

Several larger-scale initiatives provide intensive, specialized HIV prevention and risk reduction services to specific target populations. These include the following: a) the drop-in center initiatives (see page 3); b) the Faith-based initiatives (see page 5); c) the perinatal initiatives (see page 7); and the d) prevention for positives initiatives (see page 11). These initiatives frequently involve the participation of several of the 31 funded projects in specific outreach, HE/RR, PCM, and CLI activities that make up the specialized HIV prevention services provided.

DOAPC staff provide extensive training and technical assistance to HIV prevention projects in both programmatic and fiscal aspects of their programs. Technical assistance is provided in the areas of intervention, program, staff, and curriculum development with training, workshops, and conferences designed to meet technical assistance needs offered throughout the year. Training and technical assistance sessions are announced in the PAE unit=s annual training announcement or through the distribution of workshop or conference announcement flyers.

This document provides a brief overview of the HIV prevention interventions supported by the PAE unit, as well as a brief description and contact information for each of the 31 HIV prevention projects founded by the PAE unit. Also included is a guide to related DOAPC services and staff contact information.

## **MAJOR HIV PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS**

# ***The focus is on behavior change!***

### **Street and Community Outreach**

This rigorous intervention is intended to reach out to high-risk populations in the street and community where they can be found. The goal of outreach activities is to empower indigenous representatives of targeted communities to provide HIV prevention information, risk reduction counseling, referrals, and treatment options to populations at high risk for HIV infection. Through targeted outreach campaigns sustained over time, HIV prevention projects develop a presence in the community and establish a trust with targeted individuals, providing them with the information, prevention skills, and referrals they may need to reduce their risk of HIV infection. Outreach workers also develop a rapport with high-risk individuals in an effort to facilitate their enrollment in HIV HE/RR multi-sessions, PCM multi-sessions, or HIV counseling and testing.

### **Health Education/Risk Reduction**

Specialized HIV risk-reduction, group-level intervention provides individuals at increased risk with the skills and information they need to reduce their risk for HIV infection. Utilizing researched curricula that have demonstrated success in effecting behavior change, HE/RR multi-sessions enhance participants' specific risk-reduction and prevention skills needed to reduce risk for HIV infection, i.e., communication, negotiation, assertiveness, problem solving, trigger management, and safer sex skills. Additionally, HE/RR multi-sessions provide group reinforcement and support for participants' risk-reduction efforts, assisting in personalizing HIV risk and in developing the self-confidence needed to implement HIV risk reduction strategies.

### **Prevention Case Management**

This intensive, individual-level, multi-session counseling intervention is intended to provide persons at increased risk for HIV infection with the information and skills they need to implement personal risk reduction strategies. Like HE/RR multi-sessions, PCM counseling sessions promote the enhancement of risk reduction skills and the development of personal HIV risk recognition and self-esteem. However, as one-on-one counseling interventions, PCM sessions go beyond the scope of HE/RR sessions by assisting high-risk individuals to develop a personalized prevention plan, helping to manage their personal life challenges that keep them from reducing their high-risk behavior. In some cases, OraSure counseling and testing is provided to individuals enrolled in one-on-one PCM counseling as part of their risk-reduction plan.

# **NEW JERSEY AIDS/STD HOTLINE**

**1-800-624-2377**

Staffed by full-time nurses, pharmacists and physicians, the **New Jersey AIDS/STD Hotline** is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide information and referrals regarding prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) through its toll-free telephone service (1-800-624-2377). Many of the information specialists are bilingual (English/Spanish), while contracting with a translation service to help individuals with their questions in more than 100 languages. The **New Jersey AIDS/STD Hotline** also has telecommunication capability for the hearing impaired through TTY/TDD (973-926-8008).

The **New Jersey AIDS/STD Hotline** provides callers information on a wide spectrum of HIV/AIDS and STD issues. With its computer reference system and professional pharmacy back-up, drug information services are available around the clock. Since its inception in 1988, the **New Jersey AIDS/STD Hotline** has responded to more than 150,000 inquiries, regularly reporting aggregate data of its call characteristics.

Questions frequently asked by callers involve: the location of counseling and testing centers, whether a particular behavior has placed them at-risk for HIV, how to reduce their risks, and questions on financial assistance with medications. Information specialists who staff the **New Jersey AIDS/STD Hotline** are prepared to do the following: refer callers to the closest HIV counseling and testing or STD treatment site; answer questions about treatment medications; provide resources for financial assistance; refer callers to medical specialists, if needed; refer callers to HIV prevention projects and/or reassure the “worried well.”

## **KEY CONTACTS**

**AIDS/STD Hotline**  
UMDNJ-NJMS  
185 South Orange Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07107

**Principal contact:**  
Thelma Jennis,  
Coordinator  
Phone: 973-972-9280  
Fax: 973-972-2679  
E-mail: [tjennis@njpies.com](mailto:tjennis@njpies.com)

**Secondary contact:**  
Steven Marcus, M.D.,  
Executive Director,  
Phone: 973-972-9280  
Fax: 973-972-2679  
E-mail: [smarcus@njpies.com](mailto:smarcus@njpies.com)

## **DROP-IN CENTER INITIATIVE**

As part of a concerted effort to reduce the number of new HIV infections and provide prevention services to people already living with HIV, the Division of AIDS Prevention and Control provides several agencies with additional funding to maintain drop-in centers that are specifically designed to provide specialized HIV prevention services to people who engage in high-risk drug and sexual behavior. Located in Atlantic City, Camden, Jersey City, and Newark at locations that provide easy access for people who exchange sex for resources, injecting drug users, and homeless or transient populations, these drop-in centers provide the following HIV prevention services:

- § street outreach to provide HIV prevention information, resources, and support to targeted high-risk populations;
- § individual-level HIV prevention interventions, e.g., risk reduction counseling, condom and communication skills-building education for clients who access the drop-in center for support;
- § one-on-one prevention case management sessions for high-risk individuals and or people with HIV, who are referred either through the drop-in center or street outreach; and
- § HIV counseling and testing services for clients whose HIV status is unknown.

Both prevention and care funds are used to support these drop-in centers. Consequently, they represent a real collaboration between HIV prevention and treatment staff on both the State and agency levels. Drop-in centers that were previously dedicated exclusively to providing either HIV treatment or prevention services, now offer a wide variety of HIV prevention and treatment services under one roof. Meanwhile, HIV positive clients no longer need be referred off-site for HIV prevention services, and newly-identified HIV positive clients can receive immediate on-site care. Additionally, by supplementing existing drop-in centers to provide the full range of HIV prevention and treatment services, a broad range of vital HIV services are provided at costs that are significantly less than the costs of operating separate prevention and treatment facilities.

### **KEY CONTACTS**

#### **Ray of Hope Drop-in Center**

AIDS Coalition of Southern New Jersey  
523 Steven Street  
Camden, NJ 08102

#### **Principal contact:** Peggy Neumann,

Project Coordinator  
Phone: 856-338-1818  
Fax: 856-338-0036  
E-mail: [peggy-neumann@acsnj.org](mailto:peggy-neumann@acsnj.org)

#### **Oasis Drop-in Center**

South Jersey AIDS Alliance  
32 S. Tennessee Avenue  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

#### **Principal contact:** Teresa Jenkins,

Project Coordinator  
Phone: 609-572-1929  
Fax: 609-572-1930  
E-mail: [sjaaooasis@yahoo.com](mailto:sjaaooasis@yahoo.com)

#### **Horizon Health Center**

714 Bergen Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

#### **Principal contact:** Marie Kinsella,

Project Coordinator  
Phone: 201-451-6300 ext. 155  
Fax: 201-451-0619  
E-mail: [mkinsella@horizonhealth.org](mailto:mkinsella@horizonhealth.org)



**Liberation In Truth**  
Unity Fellowship Church  
47 & 49 New Street  
Newark, NJ 07102-0808

**Principal contact:** Deacon Janyce Jackson,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 973-621-2100  
Fax: 973-621-2102  
E-mail: [litruth@hotmail.com](mailto:litruth@hotmail.com)

## FAITH INITIATIVE PROJECTS

This statewide intervention aims at making an impact on the way that members of New Jersey's faith communities develop positive responses to the HIV epidemic as well as provide direct prevention services to high risk clients. Clergy and other religious leaders receive education and technical support to exercise leadership in developing proactive community responses, while congregants are provided with the basic information needed to both reduce HIV risk and respond compassionately to people infected with HIV. Two projects currently spearhead the HIV prevention activities of this initiative.

**Project FAITH** (Families Acquiring Information Together on HIV/AIDS) targets pastors, their congregations, and church communities of the New Jersey conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church as well as other denominations. Pastors receive support and technical assistance to communicate with their congregants about high-risk behaviors that contribute to HIV transmission. Pastors, adults, and youth peer educators who receive HIV education through **Project FAITH** also provide outreach and HIV HE/RR sessions to people at-risk for HIV infection from geographical areas surrounding participating churches. More than 100 New Jersey congregations are currently involved in this initiative.

**The Loving in Truth** (LIT) is an extension of the Liberation In Truth Unity Fellowship Church's AIDS ministry, and targets women of color with a wide variety of HIV prevention services, including community outreach, HE/RR multi sessions, and prevention case management counseling. Among the other HIV services provided by the Liberation In Truth Unity Fellowship Church's AIDS ministry are: the perinatal initiative which targets women at-risk for transmitting HIV to their babies, the Each One Reach One project that enlists HIV-positive individuals in the process of providing prevention services to other HIV-positive persons, and the Open Door Drop-In Center which provides a wide range of HIV prevention and treatment services to targeted high-risk populations of Newark.

### KEY CONTACTS

#### **Project FAITH**

The Statewide Human  
Development Corporation  
196 Clinton Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07017

**Principal contact:** Rev. Linda Ellerbe,  
Project Executive Director

Phone: 973-286-3701

Fax: 973-286-3710

E-mail: [Pastorellerbee@aol.com](mailto:Pastorellerbee@aol.com)

#### **Liberation In Truth**

Unity Fellowship Church  
11 Halsey Street  
Newark, NJ 07102-0808

**Principal contact:** Deacon Shonda Nicholas,  
Project Coordinator

Phone: 973-621-2100

Fax: 973-621-2102

E-mail: [NicholasPoet@aol.com](mailto:NicholasPoet@aol.com)

#### **Mailing Address:**

PO Box 200434 Riverfront Plaza Station  
Newark, NJ 07102

**Secondary contact:** Elder Rev. Jacquelyn Holland,  
Executive Director

Phone: 973-621-2100

Fax: 973-621-2102

E-mail: [lintruth@aol.com](mailto:lintruth@aol.com)

## **PERINATAL PREVENTION INITIATIVE**

The Division of AIDS Prevention and Control (DOAPC) receives funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to expand outreach activities to pregnant women at high risk of acquiring and/or transmitting HIV infection. High-risk pregnant women are located and guided toward appropriate HIV counseling and testing, prenatal care, and other services. Targeted outreach includes women who are sex workers, substance abusers, incarcerated, undocumented, non-English speaking, uninsured, homeless, teens, and those who are unaware of or in denial about their risk for being HIV-infected. HIV-exposed infants who need access to appropriate prevention interventions to reduce perinatal HIV transmission are included in this effort.

Funding for perinatal HIV prevention activities supports expansion of existing prevention services in Essex, Hudson, and Passaic counties, and, specifically, in the cities of Newark, Jersey City and Paterson, where the majority of New Jersey's few remaining perinatal transmissions occur. Mobile vans are staffed by teams of outreach workers and health care professionals who conduct outreach to targeted populations, offer OraSure, pregnancy and limited STD testing, as well as prevention services. The three lead health agencies are:

**Essex County – Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Newark**  
**Hudson County – Horizon Health Center, Jersey City**  
**Passaic County – St. Joseph's Medical Center, Paterson**

Teamed with the lead health agencies are community-based partner agencies in each of the target cities. Partner agency staff accompany lead health agency staff on the vans and conduct street and community outreach to the hardest to reach women in order to refer them back to the waiting van for HIV, pregnancy, and STD testing and referral for perinatal care and other services. The partner agencies are:

**Newark – Liberation in Truth Unity Fellowship Church and Integrity, Inc.**  
**Jersey City - Hyacinth AIDS Foundation**  
**Paterson – Hispanic Multi Purpose Service Center and Hyacinth AIDS Foundation**

To help plan and oversee the perinatal prevention initiative, a Statewide Perinatal Prevention Workgroup and a local Perinatal Prevention Workgroup in each of the targeted cities meet on a quarterly basis. Both workgroups collaborate in the development implementation and ongoing evaluation of local provider network services by developing memoranda of understanding to ensure the coordination of service delivery and ongoing program improvement.

Funding also supports more intensive education of physicians and other health care providers who provide services to women of childbearing age, pregnant women, and their newborns. This education is accomplished via training, conferences and roving symposia provided by the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey (AMNJ), and an AMNJ web site which provides increased educational opportunities for health care providers.

**LEAD HEALTH AGENCIES**

**ESSEX COUNTY**

**Newark Beth Israel Medical Center**  
Family Treatment Center  
166 Lyons Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07112

**Principal contact:**  
Traci Adams,  
Program Coordinator  
Phone: 973-926-6826  
Fax: 973-923-3380

**HUDSON COUNTY**

**Horizon Health Center**  
714 Bergen Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**Principal contact:**  
Marie Kinsella,  
Project Director  
Phone: 201-451-6300 ext.155  
Fax: 201-451-0619  
E-mail: [mkinsella@horizonhealth.org](mailto:mkinsella@horizonhealth.org)

**PASSAIC COUNTY**

**St. Joseph's Medical Center**  
703 Main Street  
Paterson, NJ 07503

**Principal contact:**  
Carol Mevi -Triano  
Program Director  
Phone: 973-754-4713  
Fax: 973-279-3618  
E-mail: [TrianoC@sjhmc.org](mailto:TrianoC@sjhmc.org)

Additionally, the following partner agencies receive funding for additional staff to conduct and/or expand outreach to the hardest to reach women and refer these clients for HIV, pregnancy and STD screening, and referral to perinatal care services:

**NEWARK**

**Liberation in Truth**  
**Unity Fellowship Church**  
11 Halsey Street  
Newark, NJ 07102-0808

**Principal contact:**  
Elder Jacquelyn Holland,  
Executive Director  
Phone: 973-621-2100  
Fax: 973-621-2102  
E-mail: [Revjdh@aol.com](mailto:Revjdh@aol.com)

**Integrity, Inc.**  
103 Lincoln Park  
Newark, NJ 07101

**Principal contact:**  
Allison Schwartz,  
Program Director  
Phone: 973-623-7023  
Fax: 973-623-1862  
E-mail: [ajschwartz@att.net](mailto:ajschwartz@att.net)

**JERSEY CITY**

**Hyacinth AIDS Foundation**

75 Montgomery Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07302

**Principal contact:**

Cynthia Gonzalez,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 732- 246-0204  
Fax: 732-246-4137  
E-mail: [powhudson@eclipse.net](mailto:powhudson@eclipse.net)

**PATERSON**

**Hispanic Multi Purpose Service Center**

911 East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Paterson, NJ 07513

**Principal contact:**

Patricia Guerra,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 973-684-1576  
Fax: 973-684-7442  
E-mail: [wephagirl@aol.com](mailto:wephagirl@aol.com)

**Hyacinth AIDS Foundation**

421 Hamilton Plaza, Suite  
Paterson, NJ 07505

**Principal contact:**

Doris Morrison,  
Program Coordinator  
Phone: 973-278-7636  
Fax: 973-278-2851  
E-mail: [hafpassaic@eclipse.net](mailto:hafpassaic@eclipse.net)

**The Academy of Medicine of NJ**

14 Washington Road, Suite 101  
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

**Principal contact:**

Kim E. Davis, MA,  
Director of Research and Education  
Phone: 609- 275-1911  
Fax: 609- 275-1909  
E-mail: [www.acadmed.org](http://www.acadmed.org)

## **PREVENTION FOR HIV POSITIVES (PHP) INITIATIVE**

The New Jersey HIV Prevention Community Planning Group (NJHPCPG) recognized the critical role that people living with HIV (PLWH) play in stopping the spread of HIV infection by ranking several years ago PLWH as the highest priority situational/demographic characteristic within all six of its prioritized behavioral target populations. Following these recommended priorities, the NJDHSS has been quick to respond by redoubling the efforts of existing programs to involve PLWH, and by establishing a number of new programs specifically targeted to this population. These programs support both the individual in remaining as healthy as possible via secondary prevention efforts, as well as contributing, via primary prevention efforts, to the health and well-being of the communities in which each and every PLWH lives.

Beyond the basic public health principle of fighting an epidemic by intervening with the pool of infected individuals, actively reaching out to involve PLWH in the field of HIV prevention serves to develop and nurture positive community norms regarding the behaviors that can transmit HIV. More than twenty years into the epidemic, PLWH are themselves an established community at all levels, from neighborhood social circles to well organized national advocacy organizations. They are a powerful and credible resource, without whose assistance and continued well being we will never achieve the goals that we have all set for ourselves.

The goal of the PHP initiative is to reduce the number of new HIV infections and to link HIV-infected individuals who live in geographic areas with high incidences of HIV to medical treatment, vital support services, and HIV risk-reduction interventions. The HIV prevention needs of HIV-infected individuals are frequently overlooked. However, the every day challenges that people living with HIV face can make efforts to prevent HIV infection among HIV-infected individuals an essential component of New Jersey's HIV prevention efforts. For the simple reality is as follows:

- § People with HIV are living longer and better lives due to the advances in HIV/AIDS treatment, resulting in an increasing HIV positive community.
- § Advances in HIV Treatment have lead many to be complacent about reducing HIV risk behaviors.
- § HIV prevention strategies designed for HIV negative individuals frequently have little relevance to the high-risk behavior of HIV positive people.
- § The number of new drug resistant HIV infections due to re-infection or non-compliance with HIV treatment protocols is increasing.

PHP initiatives seek to bring PLWH into the loop of HIV prevention activities. It is essential that traditional barriers that have kept care efforts separate from prevention efforts be removed and services made client-centered and easy to access at one single site. PHP initiatives consist of those that integrate HIV prevention activities into already established HIV treatment services and those that specifically seek out HIV positive individuals for HIV prevention activities (Each One, Reach One). The Drop-in Center Initiative (see page 3) supports the PHP initiative, in that these drop-in centers serve as outreach facilities for injection drug users, the homeless, sex workers and other high risk individuals who can obtain both care and prevention services at the same location.

## **Integrating Prevention into HIV Treatment Services**

The goal of this arm of the PHP initiative is to identify and provide HIV prevention services to HIV-infected individuals who receive HIV treatment at Early Intervention Program (EIP) sites funded by the Division of AIDS Prevention and Control (DOAPC) or the Human Resource Service Administration (HRSA). This is achieved through a variety of interventions, among which are aggressive community outreach, individual-level health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) counseling and education sessions, HIV prevention case management (PCM) and support groups. A long-term aim of this activity is to identify, support and evaluate models for providing primary HIV prevention that are more effective in meeting the needs of specific HIV positive populations.

### **KEY CONTACTS**

#### **North Jersey Community Research Initiative**

393 Central Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Newark, NJ 07103

#### **Principal contact:**

Antonio Alexander,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 973-483-3444  
Fax: 973-485-7080  
E-mail: [a.alexander@njcri.org](mailto:a.alexander@njcri.org)

#### **Raritan Bay Medical Center**

530 New Brunswick Avenue  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

#### **Primary contact:** Carmen Rios, L.U.P.E. Project Coordinator

Phone: 732-324-5028  
Fax: 732-324-4838  
E-mail: [crios@rbmc.org](mailto:crios@rbmc.org)

#### **VNA of Central Jersey Foundation**

625 Bangs Avenue  
Asbury Park, NJ 07712

#### **Principal contact:** Joe Traficante, Project Coordinator

Phone: 732-502-5100  
Fax: 732-774-6006  
E-mail: [VNACJOE@aol.com](mailto:VNACJOE@aol.com)

## **Each One Reach One**

Community-based projects funded by the DOAPC to provide HIV prevention services are responsible for seeking out people who are HIV infected as part of a concerted effort to link them to HIV treatment early intervention services. However, under the Each One Reach One project, HIV prevention providers are given a new mission--to seek out and find PLWH, especially those who might not know that they are infected. As part of this campaign, people who engage in high risk behavior are encouraged to undergo HIV antibody testing to determine their HIV status. Those who discover that they are HIV positive are enrolled in both HIV prevention and treatment services. Culturally competent, HIV positive peer outreach workers and peer educators have an especially valuable role in this process: they are the very agents who are most effective in locating other HIV positive individuals and motivating them to get into vital HIV prevention and treatment services, the Each One Reach One concept..

**KEY CONTACTS**

**Liberation In Truth  
Unity Fellowship Church**  
47 & 49 New Street  
Newark, NJ 07102-0808

**Principal contact:**  
Ms. Shonda Nicholas,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 973-621-2100  
Fax: 973-621-2102  
E-mail: [NicholasPoet@aol.com](mailto:NicholasPoet@aol.com)



# **NEW JERSEY STATEWIDE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

## ***Project FAITH (Families Acquiring Information Together on HIV/AIDS)***

**Project FAITH** is a statewide, community-level HIV/AIDS education and prevention program that targets faith leaders in various houses of worship or non-traditional settings throughout the State of New Jersey. Their primary role is to establish HIV resource centers that will include one or more of the following activities:

- Distribution of culturally appropriate literature and materials (give-a-ways) that may be inserted into faith community bulletins;
- Provide grief/comfort counseling;
- Provide HIV prevention risk and harm reduction sessions;
- Provide HIV counseling and testing;
- Provide HIV prevention train-the-trainer to at least two persons from each house of worship for an on-going dialogue with members and its community;

Project FAITH HIV resource centers are also certified partners with The Balm in Gilead, a nationally recognized organization with expertise in the mobilization of Black churches in HIV/AIDS awareness. In collaboration with this organization, Project FAITH provide leadership to faith communities to coordinate the following campaigns in New Jersey:

- “The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS”, usually in March
- “The Black Church Lights the Way, HIV Testing Campaign”, usually in June

## **KEY CONTACT**

**Project FAITH**  
The Statewide Human  
Development Corporation  
196 Clinton Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07017

**Principal contact:** Rev. Linda Ellerbe,  
Project Executive Director  
Phone: 973-286-3701  
Fax: 973-286-3710  
E-mail: [Pastorellerbe@aol.com](mailto:Pastorellerbe@aol.com)

## NEW JERSEY WOMEN AND AIDS NETWORK

The **New Jersey Women and AIDS Network (NJWAN)** was founded in May 1988 to express the special concerns and needs of women with regard to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. NJWAN's mission is to reduce the spread of HIV infection in women; support the self-determination of women living with HIV/AIDS to better access quality care and treatment; educate service providers; and advocate for appropriate policies in the women and AIDS pandemic.

**NJWAN's** programs reach individuals, organizations, and communities through their toll-free warmline (800-747-1108), quarterly newsletter, and numerous presentations and trainings on women-specific topics, e.g., perinatal prevention outreach training. The program also provides an annual symposium, consisting of 150 participants, targeted toward women living with HIV, centering on topics pertaining to women's issues.

Various health education and harm reduction programs are available on a statewide basis and include:

- **Sister Connect**, a program designed to counter the isolation and stigma felt by many women living with HIV, inform women about the various services available to them, assist women in accessing those services, and enhance women's health care by increasing their knowledge about treatment issues. Sister Connect graduates, many of whom are living with HIV, are trained to deliver educational presentations and serve as experiential speakers; and
- **Sister RISE**, a program designed to increase knowledge and improve attitudes toward medication adherence and compliance and to encourage positive health behaviors among women living with HIV/AIDS. Participants are encouraged to bring partners, family, or friends to the program, as NJWAN understands that social support is a key to healthy living.

### KEY CONTACT

**New Jersey Women and  
AIDS Network**  
5 Elm Row, Suite 112  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

**Principal contact:** Kiameesha Evans,  
Executive Director  
Phone: 732-846-4462  
Fax: 732-846-2674  
E-Mail: [njwandirector@aol.com](mailto:njwandirector@aol.com)

## PRINCETON CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING (PCLT)

### *NEW JERSEY TEEN PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAM (TEEN PEP)*

**Teen PEP** is a collaborative effort involving the following partners: The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, PCLT, and Princeton HiTOPS (Health Interested Teens= Own Program on Sexuality). The purpose of this innovative project is to increase knowledge, skills, and abilities regarding sexual health among New Jersey high school students. Program goals include enhancing New Jersey=s already existing statewide teen peer education network and broadening the scope of peer leadership capacities to include the prevention of teen pregnancy, HIV, and other sexually transmitted infections.

Working with targeted high schools, **Teen PEP** seeks to provide an alternative sexual health course. Students are selected by **Teen PEP** to become trained peer educators at each participating school. Based on the nationally recognized HiTOPS curriculum and the proven model of peer-to-peer education strategies developed by PCLT, the **Teen PEP** curriculum is consistent with New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for sexual health education developed by the New Jersey Department of Education. Teen PEP activities at each participating schools include the following:

- \$ enhancing school infrastructure to support institutionalization of Teen PEP;
- \$ developing a stakeholder team consisting of administrators, parents, faculty, students and community members to support Teen PEP activities;
- \$ capacity building for faculty advisors to facilitate and coordinate Teen PEP activities;
- \$ developing a cohesive corps of student peer educators who are committed to sexual health advocacy in targeted school communities;
- \$ assisting student peer educators in becoming knowledgeable, effective, and capable role models for other youth;
- \$ providing practical, engaging skills-building training to help peer educators reduce their own sexual risk-taking;
- \$ training peer educators to facilitate innovative, effective prevention education group discussions and other interactive activities for youth, parents, and educators in NJ schools and communities;
- \$ providing on-site technical assistance to targeted schools to address school needs and concerns related to sexual health issues;
- \$ coordinating an annual Day of Learning for student peer leaders from high schools from all over New Jersey;
- \$ coordinating skills-building workshops related to teen sexual health for high school teen leaders from all over New Jersey; and
- \$ training school advisory teams to coordinate their school-based sexual health peer education projects.

## STATEWIDE GRANTEES

### *New Jersey Teen Prevention Education Project*

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To this collaborative effort, PCLT brings expertise and background in developing peer leadership skills, while Princeton HiTOPS assists participating school and community groups in developing their HIV prevention workshops. A statewide advisory team of health educators, youth advocates, and teen peer leaders meet several times each year to provide recommendations and resources to support high quality programming.

## KEY CONTACTS

**Princeton Center for Leadership Training**  
12 Vandeventer Avenue  
Princeton, NJ 08542

**Principal contact:** Dr. Sherry Barr,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 609-252-9300 ext.117  
Fax: 609-252-9393  
E-mail: [pchsherry@juno.com](mailto:pchsherry@juno.com)

**Secondary contact:** Dr. Sharon Rose Powell,  
President  
Phone: 609-252-9300 ext.110  
Fax: 609-252-9393

**Princeton HiTOPS**  
21 Wiggins Street  
Princeton, NJ 08540

**Principal contact:** Bonnie Parker,  
Executive Director  
Phone: 609-683-5155  
Fax: 609-683-9507  
E-mail: [HiTOPSkids@aol.com](mailto:HiTOPSkids@aol.com)

**New Jersey Department of Health  
and Senior Services**  
Division of AIDS Prevention and Control  
PO Box 363, 50 E. State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0363

**Principal contact:** Fred Vasapolli,  
NJDHSS Coordinator  
Phone: 609-984-6050  
Fax: 609-292-4244  
E-mail: [alfred.vasapolli@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:alfred.vasapolli@doh.state.nj.us)

## ATLANTIC CITY DIVISION OF HEALTH

### *ATLANTIC CITY PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS*

**The Atlantic City Partnership for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS (ACPPH)** is a collaborative effort of four local agencies considered the gatekeepers to the target populations which they serve. These agencies create a project that aims at responding to the goals and objectives outlined by the New Jersey HIV Prevention Community Planning Group.

The project partners' shared goal is targeted program design, delivered by indigenous staff, in settings that promote sustained, intense interventions to change behavior and reduce the risk of HIV transmission. The Atlantic City Division of Health (ACDOH) serves as the lead agency for this project, with three sub-grantees receiving support from the ACDOH. In addition to serving as the lead agency, the ACDOH provides counseling and testing at each partnership site and fosters access to clinics and other services. ACDOH also directly provides at-risk women with prevention services, which include outreach and prevention case management (PCM).

Sub-grantees include: the Spanish Community Center, targeting high-risk Latinas; Covenant House of Atlantic City, targeting homeless/runaway/street youth; and South Jersey AIDS Alliance, targeting men who have sex with men. Through a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Counseling and Testing Services unit of the Division of AIDS Prevention and Control, the Institute for Human Development provides HIV prevention programming for injection drug users (IDU) not already in treatment and for the sex partners of IDU. Each agency has a significant history in the provision of HIV prevention services to their targeted populations.

Services provided by each partner agency are tailored to meet the particular HIV prevention needs of targeted populations. Each agency provides street and community outreach (conducted by indigenous staff), risk assessments, health education/risk reduction skills-building multi-sessions, and one-on-one PCM counseling. All partnership agencies share working relationships with the Atlantic City HIV Care Consortium and the Early Intervention Program of the Atlantic City Medical Center, which provide clients additional resources for primary and secondary prevention. The Spanish Community Center also assists the ACPPH in addressing project training needs.

## KEY CONTACTS

**Atlantic City Division of Health**  
1301 Bacharach Blvd., Fourth floor  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

**Principal contact:** Gene Brunner,  
CTS Coordinator  
Phone: 609-347-6458  
Fax: 609-347-8798

**Secondary contact:** Ron Cash,  
Health Officer  
Phone: 609-347-5663  
Fax: 609-347-5662  
E-mail: [roncash@compuserve.com](mailto:roncash@compuserve.com)

**Covenant House**  
929 Atlantic Avenue  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

**Principal contact:** Jennifer Williams,  
Program Coordinator  
Phone: 609-348-4070  
Fax: 609-348-4356

**Secondary contact:** Brian Nelson,  
Director  
Phone: 609-348-4070  
Fax: 609-348-4356

**South Jersey AIDS Alliance**  
19 Gordon's Alley  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

**Principal contact:** Chuck Jacobs,  
Prevention Case Manager  
Phone: 609-347-1085  
Fax: 609-348-8775

**Secondary contact:** Keith Egan,  
Coordinator  
Phone: 609-347-1085  
Fax: 609-348-8775

**Spanish Community Center**  
3900 Ventrone Avenue  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

**Principal contact:** Marta Lopez,  
Prevention Case Manager  
Phone: 609-345-1249  
Fax: 609-345-8533

**Secondary contact:** Cindy Robillard  
Phone: 609-345-1249  
Fax: 609-345-8533

## **SOUTH JERSEY AIDS ALLIANCE (SJAA)**

### ***OASIS DROP-IN CENTER***

Utilizing both prevention and care funding, the Oasis Drop-in center was established to link prevention and treatment services at one location in Atlantic City. In an effort to reduce the number of additional infections involving HIV-infected high-risk populations, such as IDUs, sex workers, and the homeless, SJAA receives funding from the Division of AIDS Prevention and Control for the following:

- § street outreach to provide HIV prevention information, resources, and support to targeted high risk populations;
- § individual-level HIV prevention interventions, e.g., risk reduction counseling, condom and communication skills-building education for clients who access the drop-in center for support;
- § one-on-one prevention case management sessions for people with HIV infection and other high-risk individuals who are referred either through the drop-in center or through street outreach; and
- § HIV counseling and testing services for clients whose HIV status is unknown.

The availability of HIV prevention services at the Oasis Drop-in Center provides continuity of services to high-risk individuals. Clients who were previously referred to other, off-site programs and prevention services are now provided a “one-stop shopping” venue for service delivery. At the center, people at high risk for HIV can receive immediate access to HIV counseling and testing, along with other prevention and risk reduction services; HIV-positive clients are no longer referred for HIV prevention services. Additionally, newly identified HIV positive clients can receive on-site treatment services. The center’s service expansion cost significantly less than the capital required for separate HIV prevention and treatment drop-in centers.

The Oasis Drop-in Center’s program has an additional outstanding feature: Many HIV-positive clients choose to receive appropriate training to assist other clients in reducing their risk for HIV infection.

### **KEY CONTACTS**

**South Jersey AIDS Alliance**  
**Oasis Drop-in Center**  
32 S. Tennessee Avenue  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

**Principal contact:** Karen Meredith,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 609-572-1929  
Fax: 609-572-1930  
E-mail: [sjaaooasis@yahoo.com](mailto:sjaaooasis@yahoo.com)

**Secondary contact:** Georgette Watson,  
Project Director  
Phone: 609-347-1085  
Fax: 609-348-8775  
E-mail: [sjaa@yahoo.com](mailto:sjaa@yahoo.com)

## **POWHATAN RENAPE NATION**

**The Powhatan Renape Nation** is a social service agency that has offered HIV prevention education services to the New Jersey American Indian population since 1988. The Powhatan Renape Nation focuses its HIV prevention project on high-risk, Native American women of childbearing age in Bergen, Burlington, Camden, and Cumberland Counties. Indian Health Service studies have shown that Native American women have rates of HIV seroprevalence four to eight times higher than women of childbearing age in other ethnic groups. AIDS is the fourth leading killer of Native American women.

Outreach, which includes community-level gatherings, mailings, word-of-mouth and telephone contact, is conducted to identify women who are at risk for HIV infection. High-risk women are provided either multi-session, HE/RR workshops or multiple, individual counseling and educational sessions. Sessions are held in community centers or in homes. Both group and individual-level interventions are intended to enhance skills enabling women to avoid acquiring or transmitting HIV infection. Additionally, women at high risk for HIV infection are referred to other related services such as HIV counseling/testing and early intervention medical services.

### **KEY CONTACT**

**Powhatan Renape Nation**  
Rankokus Indian Reservation  
730 Rancocas Road  
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

**Principal contact:** Kim H. Hunter,  
Health Education Coordinator  
Phone: 609-261-4747  
Fax: 609-261-7313  
E-mail: [powhatan@powhatan.org](mailto:powhatan@powhatan.org)



# **AIDS COALITION OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY (ACSNJ)**

## ***RAY OF HOPE DROP-IN CENTER***

In an effort to reduce the number of additional infections involving HIV infected and high-risk populations, the Division of AIDS Prevention and Control has provided the ACSNJ with additional funding to run the Ray of Hope Drop-in Center. The drop-in center provides the following HIV prevention services:

- § street outreach to provide HIV prevention information, resources, and support to targeted high-risk populations;
- § individual level HIV prevention interventions, e.g., risk reduction counseling, condom and communication skills-building education for clients who access the drop-in center for support;
- § one-on-one prevention case management sessions for referred high-risk individuals, either through the drop-in center or through street outreach; and
- § HIV counseling and testing services for clients whose HIV status is unknown.

The Ray of Hope Drop-in Center provides a continuity of HIV prevention services to high-risk individuals. Previously, clients were referred to other programs and sites for HIV prevention services. Ray of Hope provides a one-stop shopping venue for service delivery. Additionally, clients already HIV-infected who visit the center can be recruited by staff into the effort of preventing and reducing the number of new HIV infections.

Using combined prevention and care funding, the Ray of Hope Drop-in Center is one of four drop-in centers targeting IDUs, sex workers, and the homeless wherein prevention and care services are linked on-site. Located in Camden at an existing care and treatment drop-in facility, the Ray of Hope Drop-in Center was given prevention funding to provide seamless prevention and care services at the same site. HIV positive clients will no longer be referred for HIV prevention services, and newly identified HIV positive clients can receive on-site care. The cost of supplementing the existing drop-in center is significantly less than what would be needed to establish new separate HIV prevention and care services.

## **KEY CONTACTS**

**AIDS Coalition of Southern New Jersey**  
100 Essex Avenue  
Bellmawr, NJ 08031

**Principal contact:**  
Michael Pellecchia,  
Project Director  
Phone: 856-933-9500  
Fax: 856-933-9515  
E-mail:

[michael\\_pellecchia@ascnj.org](mailto:michael_pellecchia@ascnj.org)

**CAMDEN COUNTY**  
***AIDS Coalition of Southern New Jersey***

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**Ray of Hope Drop-in Center**

523 Steven Street  
Camden, NJ 08102

**Principal contact:**

Peggy Neumann,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 856-338-1818  
Fax: 856-338-0036  
E-mail: [peggy\\_neumann@acsnj.org](mailto:peggy_neumann@acsnj.org)

# CAMDEN AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER (CAMDEN AHEC)

## ***HIV PREVENTION RESOURCES PRIORITY 2 HEALTH EDUCATION/RISK REDUCTION (HE/RR) PROGRAM***

Camden AHEC is a nonprofit, community-based organization whose mission is to improve the health of people and advocate for increased access to health care. Through a collaborative effort to educate both consumers and providers, Camden AHEC advocates responsible delivery and use of health care services and develops innovative model programs for service delivery and education.

The focus of Camden's HIV Prevention Resources Priority 2 Health Education/Risk Reduction (HE/RR) Program is to provide street and community outreach, health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) sessions, and prevention case management (PCM). HIV test counselors utilize the OraSure HIV testing method. The program's goal is to increase the importance of knowing one's serostatus, to provide appropriate counseling to at-risk clients, and to guide HIV positive consumers into PCM and treatment services. HIV Prevention Resources Priority 2 Program services target predominantly African American, and Latino/a women, youth, and men who have sex with men (MSM) at high risk for HIV.

The intent of the **HIV Prevention Resources Priority 2 Program** is to limit the increase of HIV infection rates in Camden by encouraging and supporting behavior change related to sexual and drug use conduct, and by reducing the risk for HIV infection among at-risk individuals. Services are specialized to meet the needs of each of the three target populations. Programming is offered at community-based sites where clients feel most comfortable. In response to the needs of young gay men of color from Camden and other young men who are coping with sexual orientation issues, staff has established the KIS (Keeping It Safe) Club. This group meets weekly and provides support, HIV prevention information, and social activities. An adult MSM group meets two Fridays each month.

### **KEY CONTACT**

**Camden Area Health Education  
Center, (AHEC)**  
514 Cooper Street  
Camden, NJ 08102

**Principal contact:** Norma I. Santiago,  
HIV Coordinator  
Phone: 856-963-2432 Ext. 210  
Fax: 856-541-1342  
E-mail: [Santiago\\_n@camden-ahec.org](mailto:Santiago_n@camden-ahec.org)

**Secondary contact:** Carol Wolff,  
Executive Director  
Phone: 856-963-2432  
Fax: 856-541-1342  
E-mail: [wolff\\_c@camden-ahec.org](mailto:wolff_c@camden-ahec.org)

## **HISPANIC FAMILY CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY (HFCSNJ)**

### ***LATINOS UNIDOS COMBATIENDO LA EPIDEMIA DEL SIDA (L.U.C.E.S.) (LATINOS UNITED TO COMBAT THE AIDS EPIDEMIC)***

**L.U.C.E.S.** is designed to reach high-risk Latina women and Latino youth from Camden through culturally competent interventions aimed at reducing their risk for HIV infection. The goal of these interventions is to assist individuals in adopting positive, healthy lifestyles that foster behavior change to reduce HIV high-risk behavior.

**L.U.C.E.S.** utilizes the following HIV/AIDS risk reduction interventions:

- (1) *street outreach* - L.U.C.E.S.** conducts outreach in the streets of Camden to reach high-risk populations by disseminating HIV/AIDS information, distributing condoms, and making referrals to appropriate services;
- (2) *community outreach* -** Single-session HIV awareness presentations target various community groups to change negative attitudes regarding HIV/AIDS and to recruit individuals for HIV prevention health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) multi-sessions;
- (3) *HE/RR multi-sessions* -** HIV prevention, skills-building sessions deliver intensive, focused messages to high-risk individuals through a series of small group gatherings;
- (4) *prevention case management (PCM)* –** Individual, one-on-one multi-session HIV prevention counseling provides high-risk individuals with the support, assistance, and resources needed for positive risk-reduction behavior change; and
- (5) *support groups* -** A non-threatening environment encourages participants to share and/or receive information and positive reinforcement from their peers.

**L.U.C.E.S.** utilizes trained staff to conduct all aspects of HIV prevention activities. These individuals are bilingual and bicultural.

**KEY CONTACTS**

**The Hispanic Family Center  
of Southern New Jersey**  
35 Church Street  
Camden, NJ 08105

**Principal contact:** Migdalia Thompson,  
Prevention Unit Coordinator  
Phone: 856-541-6985  
Fax: 856-963-2663  
E-mail: [HFCSNJ35@aol.com](mailto:HFCSNJ35@aol.com)

**Secondary contact:** Elsa Candelario,  
Executive Director  
Phone: 856-541-6985  
Fax: 856-963-2663  
E-mail: [Ecandelario@aol.com](mailto:Ecandelario@aol.com)

## FAMCARE, INC

### *HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM*

FamCare, Inc. is the lead agency of an HIV prevention risk reduction project targeting Bridgeton area African American and Latina women, youth, and MSM at high risk for HIV infection. The goal of the HIV Prevention Program is to reduce the spread of HIV infection by assisting targeted women, youth, and MSM to alter their high-risk drug and sexual behavior. Three specific activities are used to accomplish this goal: (1) targeted street and community outreach; (2) multi-session health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) skills-building classes; (3) multi-session, one-on-one prevention case management (PCM) counseling sessions. Collaboration partners in HE/RR activities are South Jersey AIDS Alliance, Bridgeton and Community Health Care Inc., and Bridgeton School-Based Youth Services Program.

Working with these agencies, FamCare Inc. provides overall project management, HE/RR classes for women, street and community outreach to women, youth and MSM, prevention case management for MSM, and HIV OraSure testing. Trained peers from the Bridgeton area conduct street outreach and assist with multi-session HE/RR classes featuring the *Partners in Prevention* curriculum for women.

The South Jersey AIDS Alliance provides a bilingual prevention case manager to coordinate multi-session HIV PCM sessions for youth and women and to conduct HE/RR (*Partners in Prevention*) classes for Latina women. Transportation to and from HE/RR classes and PCM sessions is provided by the South Jersey AIDS Alliance, as needed. A Program Assistant/Health Educator from the Bridgeton School-based Youth Services Program conducts risk assessment interviews with youth and conducts multi-session HE/RR (*Be Proud! Be Responsible!*) classes. Staff from FamCare, Inc. and South Jersey AIDS Alliance use the OraSure HIV-1 oral specimen collection process for counseling and testing. HIV positive clients are referred into PCM, treatment, and social services.

### KEY CONTACTS

**FamCare, Inc.**  
570 Chestnut Ave.  
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

**Principal contact:** Vicky L. Kernan,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 856-451-3339  
Fax: 856-453-0056  
E-mail: [vkernan@famcareinc.com](mailto:vkernan@famcareinc.com)

**Secondary contact:** Melissa Bethune,  
Health Educator  
Phone: 856-451-3339  
Fax: 856-453-0056

**South Jersey AIDS Alliance**

287 Irving Avenue  
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

**Principal Contact:** Cynthia Rivera,

Prevention Case Manager

Phone: 856-455-6164

Fax: 856-455-7555

**Community Health Care, Inc.**

**School-based Youth Services Program**

Bridgeton High School  
West Avenue  
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

**Principal contact:** Cindy Bernstein,

Program Assistant/Health Educator

Phone: 856-455-8030, ext. 2296

Fax: 856-451-5818

# MARTIN LUTHER KING ACADEMY FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH CENTER

## *AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAM*

The **AIDS Awareness Program (AAP)** is a comprehensive, risk reduction HIV prevention program that targets high-risk African American and Latino youth in Cumberland County. **AAP** project staff collaborate with churches, social service organizations, the public school system, and other groups providing services to targeted populations.

**AAP** utilizes the *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* curriculum to conduct small and large group HIV/AIDS prevention HE/RR sessions for high-risk populations. Other HIV/AIDS prevention services include referrals to additional preventive health services for case management and testing and related HIV/AIDS care services.

**AAP** is a subdivision of M.L. King Inc., a nonprofit community-based organization serving the clients of Southern New Jersey with quality care.

### KEY CONTACT

**M. L. King Inc.**  
633 Elmer Street  
Vineland, NJ 08360

**Principal contact:**  
Malinda Mitchell, B.S. Ed.  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 856-692-6012 ext. 31  
Fax: 856-692-9465  
E-mail:  
mlking.academy@verizon.net

**Secondary contact:**  
Patricia Burton, M.B.A.  
Chief Executive Office  
Phone: 856-692-6012 ext. 11  
Fax: 856-692-9465



## AFRICAN AMERICAN OFFICE OF GAY CONCERNS (AAOGC)

### *THE BROTHER PROJECT*

The *Brothers Reaching Out Through Health Education and Risk Reduction* (BROTHER) Project serves men of color who have sex with men, including, but not limited to gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning men. Through a variety of culturally appropriate activities, the gay men of color who make up the staff of the BROTHER Project strive to reduce the numbers of new HIV infections among men of color who have sex with other men. Through outreach and health education sessions designed to reach out to gay men of color, members of the Newark House communities and men who are on the “Down Low”, staff strive to reduce the rate of HIV infection resulting from high risk behaviors that increase the risk for HIV infection. Services include street and community outreach, individual and group-level HIV health education/risk reduction programs, support groups, one-on-one HIV risk reduction counseling, and prevention case management.

The AAOGC, the parent organization of the BROTHER Project, serves as a resource for the well-being of gay men of color statewide, providing leadership in the identification of strategies and resources which assist in the reduction of HIV infections among men of color who have sex with other men.

### KEY CONTACTS

**The BROTHER Project**  
877 Broad Street, Suite 211  
Newark, NJ 07102

**Principal contact:** Gary Paul Wright,  
Executive Director  
Phone: 973-639-0755  
Fax: 973-639-9722  
E-mail: [aaogc.brother@verizon.net](mailto:aaogc.brother@verizon.net)

**Secondary contact:** Shelton Jackson,  
Administrative Assistant  
Phone: 973-639-0700  
Fax: 973-639-9722  
E-mail: [aaogc.brother@verizon.net](mailto:aaogc.brother@verizon.net)

## HYACINTH AIDS FOUNDATION NEWARK

### ***PROJECT POW! (PREVENTION OUTREACH WORKS) NEWARK***

**Hyacinth AIDS Foundation** is the lead agency of **Project POW! - Newark**, a comprehensive HIV health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) program targeting high-risk African American and Latina women, Latino youth, and men who have sex with men (MSM). Sub-grantees include the New Jersey Association on Correction (NJAC) and the AIDS Resource Foundation for Children (ARFC). NJAC is responsible for implementing prevention programs and peer intervention training for people in the correctional system, including individuals from both the parole and probation systems. ARFC provides intensive family services to families with youth at high risk for HIV infection.

Based on the philosophy indigenous workers are most effective in delivering program services in their own neighborhoods, the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, in collaboration with local community-based organizations, prepares members of the targeted communities to provide a variety of HIV prevention services including the following:

- street outreach to provide HIV prevention information and resources to targeted high risk populations;
- multi-session HE/RR programs featuring the *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* curriculum for youth and their families; and
- multi-session HE/RR programs, featuring the *Partners In Prevention* curricula for high-risk women and MSM.

In addition, trained staff provide HIV prevention case management (PCM) counseling sessions to individuals at highest risk to enhance their risk reduction and assist with behavior change efforts.

**Project POW!** staff collaborate with a number of programs to provide HIV prevention services to people at high risk for HIV infection, including the Newark Housing Authority, the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, St. Columba Neighborhood Club, and Liberation in Truth Unity Fellowship Church.

Along with providing a site for **Project POW**, the Newark Housing Authority, working in conjunction with the AME Church, assists in reaching out and identifying peer community leaders who assist in outreach activities.

## KEY CONTACTS

**The Hyacinth AIDS Foundation**  
155 Washington Street, Room 206  
Newark, NJ 07102

**Principal contact:**  
Janet D. Devereaux  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 973-565-0300  
Fax: 973-643-8661  
E-mail: [pownewark@eclipse.net](mailto:pownewark@eclipse.net)

**Secondary contact:** Diana Santiago  
Director of Prevention  
Phone: 732-246-0204  
Fax: 732-246-4187  
E-mail: [dsantiago@eclipse.net](mailto:dsantiago@eclipse.net)

**New Jersey Association on Correction**  
986 South Broad Street  
Trenton, NJ 08611

**Principal contact:** Darcella Sessoms,  
Northern Regional Administrator  
Phone: 973-278-7205  
Fax: 973-278-7316

**AIDS Resource Foundation  
For Children**  
182 Roseville Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07107

**Principal contact:** Phillip Blakely  
Phone: 973-483-4250 ext. 15  
Fax: 973-484-1055

## INTEGRITY, INC

### ***COMMUNITY AT RISK REDUCTION (CARR) PROGRAM***

**Integrity, Inc.** is a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center, providing a therapeutic community for people who are challenged by substance abuse.

The **CARR** Program of Integrity targets youth, men and women at-risk for HIV infection. Youth-focused HIV prevention activities target young people who attend the Louise A. Spencer Elementary School (K-8) in Newark. HE/RR sessions for adolescents, ages 13-17, are conducted on a weekly basis. These sessions focus on communication, decision-making, relationships, self-esteem, attitudes, cultural issues, and risk/harm reduction. Clients at highest risk for HIV infection are offered one-on-one HIV prevention case management (PCM) counseling. HE/RR sessions are available for youth from the community at 659 Martin Luther King Blvd. on a weekly basis.

Prevention activities for women at-risk include street and community outreach to those who exchange sex for resources. Utilizing the services of a mobile van, **CARR** outreach workers distribute condoms, lubricants and personal hygiene kits, along with HIV information about the **CARR** Program. Incentives are provided to encourage participation in HIV prevention activities; individualized HE/RR information and counseling are provided, as needed. Men and women who participate in **CARR** Program activities and who are part of the Integrity, Inc. community are offered PCM services. Certified counselors utilize the OraSure HIV testing method during outreach to increase serostatus awareness, to provide appropriate counseling to at-risk clients, and to guide HIV-positive consumers into PCM and treatment services.

Collaborative agreements with the Essex County Jail Annex, UMDNJ's Infectious Disease Clinic (for medical services), and the UMDNJ Social Work Department enable the **CARR** Program to provide an array of support services. The **CARR** Program provides multiple sessions of skill-focused HIV prevention to women incarcerated at the Essex County Jail Annex in Caldwell. A percentage of women participating in these sessions are directed to drug treatment and/or PCM at Integrity upon completion of their incarceration term. Women and men are referred to the UMDNJ Infectious Disease Clinic for medical services, when appropriate.

Multi-session HE/RR workshops are offered at Integrity on a weekly basis for Integrity residents. The CARR Program has established a food bank and an entitlement program to assist **CARR** clients with referrals to detox, drug treatment, or HIV PCM.

#### **KEY CONTACT**

**Integrity, Inc.**  
103 Lincoln Park  
Newark, NJ 07101

**Principal contact:** Alison Schwartz,  
Program Director  
Phone: 973-623-7082  
Phone: 1-888-666-4488  
Fax: 973-623-1862  
E-mail: [ajschwartz@att.net](mailto:ajschwartz@att.net)

# LIBERATION IN TRUTH UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

## Loving in Truth

The ***Loving in Truth (LIT)*** project is an extension of the Liberation In Truth Unity Fellowship Church's (LITUFC's) AIDS ministry, and a certified partner of the Balm In Gilead, a national HIV prevention project dedicated exclusively to empowering churches to address HIV/AIDS in the Black community. Located in Newark, **LIT** is an HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention program that targets women of color. Specific services that are provided include: community outreach, multi-session health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) workshops, prevention case management (PCM), support groups, confidential test decision counseling, social activities, referral services, community computer access, pastoral counseling, educational workshops, and distribution of free condoms (male and female).

A member of the National Unity Fellowship Church Movement, LITUFC has provided a spiritually affirming environment for worship and growth with the greater Newark area since 1995. Creating a safer space for people of color, LITUFC has become a support base of love for everyone regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or social status. ***Loving in Truth*** strives to provide services that are reflections of LIGHT, LOVE, and LIBERATION.

### KEY CONTACTS

**Liberation In Truth  
Unity Fellowship Church**  
47 & 49 New Street  
Newark, NJ 07102-0808

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 200434 Riverfront Plaza Station  
Newark, NJ 07102

**Principal contact:** Deacon Shonda Nicholas,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 973-621-2100  
Fax: 973-621-2102  
E-mail: [NicholasPoet@aol.com](mailto:NicholasPoet@aol.com)

**Secondary contact:**  
Elder Rev. Jacquelyn Holland,  
Executive Director  
Phone: 973-621-2100  
Fax: 973-621-2102  
E-mail: [lintruth@aol.com](mailto:lintruth@aol.com)

Additional HIV prevention programs coordinated by the Liberation in Truth Unity Fellowship Church include the following:

### **The Perinatal Initiative**

With a goal of providing intensive HIV prevention activities to women aged 19 through 44, this initiative is a collaboration with Integrity, Inc. (Newark) and Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Utilizing the WELL mobile outreach van, LIT staff provide services that include: HIV antibody and pregnancy testing and counseling, distribution of condoms, personal hygiene and baby care kits, and referral to prenatal services.

## **ESSEX COUNTY**

### ***Liberation In Truth Unity Fellowship Church***

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**Principal contact:** Deacon Alicia Heath-Toby, Outreach Coordinator  
Phone: 973-621-2100  
Fax: 973-621-2102

#### **Each One Reach One**

The goal of this project is to enlist the participation of HIV-positive clients in the process of developing supportive HIV prevention services to other HIV-infected individuals. Services include: focus and support groups, prevention case management, peer mentoring, educational workshops, mental health services, referral to HIV treatment services and other vital social services.

**Principal contact:** Danielle Zora, Prevention Case Manager  
Phone: 973-621-2100  
Fax: 973-621-2102

#### **The Open Door Drop-in Center**

At the Open Door Drop-In Center, people at high risk for HIV receive immediate access to a variety of much-needed services, including showering and laundry facilities, food, and temporary resting or respite opportunities. Within this framework, homeless street people, IDUs, those who exchange sex for resources, and transient populations of Newark receive access to vital HIV prevention and treatment services, including: HIV counseling and testing, risk reduction counseling, case management and prevention case management services, and access to information about HIV prevention and treatment and free condoms.

**Principal contact:** Deacon Janyce Jackson, Coordinator of Drop-in Center Services  
Prevention Case Manager  
Phone: 973-621-2100  
Fax: 973-621-2102

## NEWARK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The **Newark Department of Health and Human Services' (NDHHS)** HIV prevention project targets women of childbearing age in Newark. Community outreach is conducted in the battered women's shelter, women's programs, and other community events. Women identified through outreach as at risk for HIV infection or transmission are enrolled in multi-session HE/RR workshops. These workshops utilize the *Partners in Prevention* curriculum developed by the Center for AIDS Intervention and Research of the Medical College of Wisconsin.

### KEY CONTACTS

**City of Newark**  
**Department of Health and**  
**Human Services**  
110 William Street  
Newark, NJ 07102

**Principal contacts:** Carla Potter,  
Program Coordinator  
Phone: 973-733-7582  
Fax: 973-733-5614  
E-mail: [potterc@ci.newark.nj.us](mailto:potterc@ci.newark.nj.us)

Marsha McGowan,  
Health Officer  
Phone: 973-733-7592  
Fax: 973-733-5614  
E-mail: [mcgowanm@ci.newark.nj.us](mailto:mcgowanm@ci.newark.nj.us)

**Secondary contact:**  
Catherine Cuomo-Cecere,  
Director  
Phone: 973-733-5130  
Fax: 973-733-3648

## NORTH JERSEY COMMUNITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE (NJCRI)

### PREVENTION 4 POSITIVES! – AN HIV PREVENTION PROJECT

NJCRI was founded in 1988 to respond to the needs of HIV infected and affected residents of northern New Jersey. Located in the North Ward of Newark, NJCRI quickly became a leader in HIV/AIDS clinical research and HIV specific psychosocial support services. NJCRI conducts clinical trials with the goal to develop better HIV treatment and make promising investigational medicines more available to New Jersey residents. In 2001, NJCRI convened a series of focus groups made up of HIV positive individuals from a variety of target populations to collect information about the issues and concerns related to developing effective HIV prevention strategies for HIV positive target populations. From the input received from these focus groups, NJCRI developed the **Prevention 4 Positives!** project.

#### **Outreach Activities**

**Prevention 4 Positives!** strives to reach out and draw in HIV positive individuals to project services. Many of the participants of the **Prevention 4 Positives!** project are clients of the HIV treatment programs and protocol provided by NJCRI. However, culturally competent and representative outreach staff and volunteers use a variety of strategies to enroll new clients in project activities. One such strategy is the **Prevention 4 Positives!** interactive Internet web site and chat room for HIV positive individuals.

#### **Educational Programming**

**Prevention 4 Positives!** strives to empower HIV positive individuals to change their high-risk sexual and drug behavior. Through both group and individual health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) activities, clients receive skills-building education in the following risk-reduction skills: 1) consistent and correct condom use; 2) syringe/needle cleaning; 3) communication, negotiation, and assertiveness skills; 4) health and sexual health advocacy.

#### **Counseling and Mental Health Services**

**Prevention 4 Positives!** strives to enhance the mental health and well-being of HIV positive individuals, and provide individualized counseling to reduce high-risk drug and sexual behavior. HIV positive clients develop individual HIV prevention strategies and plans through one-on-one prevention case management sessions, and group counseling activities that address a variety of issues, including: 1) fear of living with HIV; 2) isolation from partners, family and friends; 3) sex and the HIV positive person; 4) vulnerability to re-infection; 5) self-empowerment; 6) depression; 7) low self-esteem; 8) problem solving; and 9) risk behavior trigger management.

#### **Social and Medical Services**

**Prevention 4 Positives!** strives to address the social and medical needs of HIV positive individuals. A variety of social and medical treatment services are provided for HIV positive clients, including: 1) medical case management and counseling; 2) substance abuse treatment services; 3) case management referral for social support services; 4) family support services for HIV positive individual with addictions; and 5) information on HIV treatment medications and protocols.



Participants in the **Prevention 4 Positives!** project are individuals who are HIV positive, and are at risk of becoming re-infected or transmitting HIV to other. Their risk factors include: engaging in unsafe behavior with multiple sex partners; numerous, unmet health and social service needs; low self-esteem; and high rates of drugs and alcohol use.

#### **KEY CONTACT**

**North Jersey Community Research Initiative**  
393 Central Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Newark, NJ 07103

**Principal contact:** Antonio Alexander,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 973-483-3444  
Fax: 973-485-7080  
E-mail: [a.alexander@njcri.org](mailto:a.alexander@njcri.org)

## **ST. COLUMBA NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB, INC. (El Club del Barrio)**

### ***HIV PREVENTION PROGRAMS DIVISION***

**St. Columba Neighborhood Club, Inc. (St. Columba)** is a multi-service, Latino community-based organization (CBO) with more than twenty-five years experience in working with Newark's low income communities. St. Columba Neighborhood Club Inc. has a long history of service to Latino community in Newark, providing social, economic and recreational services to residents of all ages, from youth to senior citizens. Some of St. Columba's programs include after-school programs, mental health counseling, transportation, the only meals-on-wheels program for Latinos living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and women's services.

The following are descriptions of the initiatives that are part of HIV Prevention Programs Division of St. Columba Neighborhood Club Inc., El Club Del Barrio.

***Project RAP/Hope in AIDS*** is the HIV prevention program that targets youth whose behavior places them at high risk for HIV infection. Street and community outreach is conducted at locations where youth can be accessed. Multiple health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) sessions that utilize the *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* curriculum focus of enhancing risk reduction skills; while one-on-one PCM counseling sessions are offered to youth at highest risk for HIV infection. Supplemental funding for these activities is provided by the United Way of Essex and West Hudson, and the New Jersey AIDS Partnership.

***Entre Amigas (Among Friends)*** is St. Columba's HIV prevention initiative for Latina women at-high risk for HIV infection. As part of an effort that aims at providing culturally competent activities, Entre Amigas staff conduct outreach at locations where women are accessed, and offer group HE/RR and individual PCM counseling sessions.

***Project Fire 2*** targets men of African decent who have sex with other men with outreach, HE/RR group sessions, and one-on-one PCM counseling sessions that are designed to meet the specific HIV prevention needs of gay men, members of the Newark "House" community, "men on the downlow," bisexual men, transgendered individuals, and men who are unsure of their sexuality.

***The Everyday Man*** project is St. Columba's initiative for every man—brothers, fathers, uncles, and cousins—in the community. It aims at providing much-needed HIV-related information and risk reduction skills through street and community outreach and multi session HE/RR programs. The Everyman initiative is funded by The Prudential Foundation.

***Project MAC (Mothers and Children)*** is St. Columba's newest initiative that aims at providing HIV/AIDS information to mothers and their children through outreach and HE/RR workshops. This joint venture which involves Isaiah House, The Leaguers, and the Newark Housing Authority, is sponsored by the United Way of Essex and West Hudson and the Prudential Foundation.

### **KEY CONTACTS**

**St. Columba Neighborhood Club, Inc.**  
25 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07114

**Principal contact:** Michele Meservie, MS  
Director of HIV Prevention Programs  
Phone: 973-624-4222 ext. 12  
Fax: 973-624-2932  
E-mail: [MicheleStColumba@aol.com](mailto:MicheleStColumba@aol.com)

**Secondary contact:**  
Betty Delgado,  
Executive Director  
Phone: 973-624-4222, ext. 24  
Fax: 973-624-2932

## **CATA (EL COMITE DE APOYO A LOS TRABAJADORES AGRICOLAS)**

### ***HIV EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM***

CATA is an organization consisting of farm workers who are actively involved in the struggle to improve their living and working conditions. Since 1979, CATA has provided the organizational structure to advocate for the needs and rights of farm workers. With a long history of providing prevention education programs to farm workers, CATA works within the eastern migrant stream and has offices located in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico.

The specific target population of the CATA HIV prevention program is Latino migrant farm workers in Southern New Jersey. Originating from Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Central America, the majority of farm workers targeted are males, ranging in age from 14 to 65. They either live in isolated farm labor camps or in the community. CATA also provides HIV prevention outreach and educational sessions to female farm workers and to the wives and daughters of farm workers who live in the surrounding communities.

CATA's HIV Education and Prevention Program consists of extensive community outreach efforts to the farm labor camps and in the Latino communities of Southern New Jersey. Initial outreach visits include an introduction to the organization with basic information regarding CATA's programs. Information about HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, tuberculosis, pesticide poisoning, etc., is disseminated during these visits wherein indigenous staff make one-on-one contact with potential high-risk farm workers.

Farm workers at high risk for HIV infection are invited to participate in multi-session health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) workshops. These workshops focus on risk reduction skills and capacity building and focus on such topics as decision making, communication, and negotiation. During these sessions, farm workers develop the skills necessary to initiate positive behavior change to reduce the risk of HIV infection.

All of CATA's programs are based upon the Popular Education Methodology, a non-traditional form of education where students actively participate in the learning process. Role-plays and case studies are used to facilitate the process. These techniques take into account the participants' baseline knowledge and attitudes relative to HIV/AIDS.

Opportunities for HIV counseling and testing are offered to farm workers in connection with HE/RR sessions. Relationships with local clinics, early intervention programs, and substance abuse treatment centers have been established for farm worker referral.

**KEY CONTACTS**

**El Comité de Apoyo a los  
Trabajadores Agrícolas (CATA)**  
4 South Delsea Drive  
P.O. Box 510  
Glassboro, NJ 08028

**Principal contact:** Margaret Niedda,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 856-881-2507  
Fax: 856-881-2027  
E-mail: [catamn@aol.com](mailto:catamn@aol.com)

**Secondary contact:** Nelson Carrasquillo,  
Executive Director  
Phone: 856-881-2507  
Fax: 856-881-2027  
E-mail: [catanc@aol.co](mailto:catanc@aol.co)

## HORIZON HEALTH CENTER (HHC)

### *EMPOWERED FOR CHANGE*

**Empowered for Change** is a multi-faceted program targeting high-risk African American women and youth living in Jersey City. HHC ensures women and youth receive multiple HIV prevention health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) sessions which focus on behavior change. Outreach targets high-risk populations where they are known to engage in high-risk behavior.

HE/RR sessions for female inmates are conducted at the Hudson County Correctional Center and are delivered in eight-week cycles. Women who are identified as highest risk are provided with prevention case management (PCM) counseling services. HHC also conducts similar small group interventions and provides PCM services for women from the Kenmore School who live in the York Street Project.

Outreach to youth is conducted at the Juvenile Detention Center, Jersey City public schools, and the Liberty Park Program (a drug treatment facility for youth) where the *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* curriculum is used to provide HE/RR sessions in four-week cycles. Those youth identified as highest risk are provided with PCM services. Youth who are in school and who are part of the larger community are also targeted. Outreach presentations are provided in the schools on HIV/AIDS and on topics related to HIV risk, e.g., substance abuse. The presentations also include the administration of an HIV risk assessment tool. Those who are assessed at high risk are invited to attend Saturday HE/RR sessions which utilize the *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* curriculum. Food is provided as an incentive at the sessions, and gift certificates are provided to those who complete the program.

### *Women's Resource Center*

Utilizing HIV care funding, HHC links HIV treatment and prevention services for high-risk IDU, sex workers, and homeless women at a drop-in center located in Jersey City. HIV-positive clients must no longer be referred for HIV prevention services and newly identified HIV positive clients can receive on-site care. The expanded outreach resource enables staff to provide more intensive case management to clients who have dropped out of HIV treatment programs. The cost of supplementing this drop-in center is significantly less than what would be necessary to establish separate HIV prevention and treatment drop-in centers. With treatment and prevention service linked at a single site, HIV-positive women and women at risk for HIV prevention gain enhanced access to primary and secondary prevention services, as well as treatment services.

### KEY CONTACTS

**Horizon Health Center**  
714 Bergen Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**Principal contact:** Marie Kinsella,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 201-451-6300 ext. 155  
Fax: 201-451-0619  
E-mail: [mkinsella@horizonhealth.org](mailto:mkinsella@horizonhealth.org)

**Secondary contact:** Marilyn Cintron,  
Deputy Director  
Phone: 201-451-6300 ext. 115  
Fax: 201-451-0619  
E-mail: [mc@horizonhealth.org](mailto:mc@horizonhealth.org)

**Jersey City Medical Center (MASSH)**  
Medical and Social Services for the Homeless  
114 Clifton Place  
Jersey City, NJ 07304

**Principal contact:** Henrietta Johnson,  
Director of Special Populations  
Phone: 201-434-1316 ext. 233  
Fax: 201-434-2087

**Women's Resource Center**  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**Principle contact:** Marie Kinsella,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 201-433-3803  
Fax: 201-451-0619  
E-mail: [mkinsella@horizonhealth.org](mailto:mkinsella@horizonhealth.org)

## HYACINTH AIDS FOUNDATION JERSEY CITY

### ***PROJECT POW! (PREVENTION OUTREACH WORKS)*** ***JERSEY CITY***

**Project POW! - Jersey City** is a comprehensive health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) program targeting women at high risk for HIV infection, men who have sex with men (MSM), and youth. The project serves all of Jersey City, a metropolitan area having the second highest *per capita* incidence of AIDS in the nation. The **Project POW! - Jersey City** concept is based upon the belief that members of a community are best suited to deliver HIV prevention messages to their neighbors. The Hyacinth AIDS Foundation is the lead agency of this project; the Puerto Rican Family Institute serves as a sub-grantee, coordinating HIV prevention activities targeting Latino youth.

Competent **Project POW! - Jersey City** peer leaders conduct street outreach in neighborhoods with large numbers of people at-risk for HIV infection. During community outreach, accurate HIV prevention information and referrals to a variety of support services are delivered, and high-risk individuals are recruited to participate in multi-session HE/RR workshops designed to sustain behavior change to help reduce the risk of HIV transmission. Individuals who have completed these sessions are invited to receive additional training to become part of an integral team of peer educators who develop programs that are culturally competent and appealing to targeted groups and local populations. Individuals at highest risk for HIV infection and/or who are unresponsive to group HIV prevention sessions are invited to enroll in one-on-one prevention case management (PCM) counseling sessions.

**Project POW!** staff deliver multi-session presentations at community-based organizations, schools, churches, etc. *Partners in Prevention* curricula are used in group HE/RR sessions targeting women and MSM, while the *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* curriculum is utilized to provide group HE/RR sessions for youth. Additionally, a small number of high-risk youth are invited to participate in the **POW! Club**, a more intensive, peer-led intervention employing youth to work with other young people.

As a member of the Jersey City HIV perinatal prevention initiative, which is coordinated by the Horizon Health Center, a **Project POW!** outreach worker works with staff of the perinatal program to bring perinatal HIV prevention services to hardest-to-reach women. The targeted population includes women who are drug users, incarcerated, undocumented, non-English speaking, uninsured, homeless, or teen-aged, in conjunction with other women who are unaware of or in denial about their risk for HIV infection.



**KEY CONTACTS**

**The Hyacinth AIDS Foundation**  
75 Montgomery Street, Fifth floor  
Jersey City, NJ 07302

**Principal contact:** Cynthia Gonzalez,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 201-432-1134  
Fax: 201-432-0787  
E-mail: [powhudson@eclipse.net](mailto:powhudson@eclipse.net)

**Secondary contact:** Diana Santiago,  
Director of Prevention  
Phone: 732-246-0204  
Fax: 732-246-4137  
E-mail: [dsantiago@eclipse.net](mailto:dsantiago@eclipse.net)

**Puerto Rican Family Institute**  
40 Journal Square, Suite 302  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**Principal contact:** Nelida Arancibia,  
Program Director  
Phone: 201-610-9429  
Fax: 201-610-9426

## **PLANNED PARENTHOOD ASSOCIATION OF THE MERCER AREA (PPAMA)**

### ***GET SAFE! -- AN HIV PREVENTION PROJECT***

**PPAMA** is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the provision of quality, comprehensive sexual health services to women and men of Mercer County, regardless of income, age, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

**Get Safe!** is a comprehensive, risk reduction HIV prevention program targeting those at highest risk of contracting HIV in the Trenton community. The GET SAFE! Program targets African American and Latino youth, women, and men who have sex with men, who are homeless, exchange sex for resources, have high rates of sexually transmitted infections and drug use, and who may be living with HIV/AIDS.

**Get Safe!** provides the following services: directed outreach; intensive, culturally competent, multi-session risk reduction education; referrals to primary and secondary services through OraSure HIV counseling and testing; and client-centered HIV prevention case management.

### **KEY CONTACTS**

**Planned Parenthood Association  
of the Mercer Area**  
437 East State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608

**Principal contact:** Michele Giordano,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 609-599-4881 ext. 184  
Fax: 609-989-4846  
E-mail: [michele.Giordano@ppfa.org](mailto:michele.Giordano@ppfa.org)

**Secondary contact:** Violet Sawyer,  
Director of Community Services  
Phone: 609-599-4881 ext. 132  
Fax: 609-599-4846  
E-mail: [violet.sawyer@ppfa.org](mailto:violet.sawyer@ppfa.org)

## HYACINTH AIDS FOUNDATION NEW BRUNSWICK

### ***PROJECT POW! (PREVENTION OUTREACH WORKS)***

**Project POW! - New Brunswick** is a comprehensive HIV Health Education/Risk Reduction (HE/RR) and outreach program targeting at-risk African American and Latino(a) women, youth, men who have sex with men (MSM), and men at risk. The Hyacinth AIDS Foundation is the lead agency of **Project POW!** – New Brunswick; sub-grantees include The New Jersey Association on Correction and the Middlesex County Health Department.

Based on the belief indigenous workers are most effective at delivering program services within their own neighborhoods, the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, in collaboration with local community-based organizations, prepares members of the targeted communities to provide a variety of HIV prevention services including the following:

- street outreach to provide HIV prevention information and resources to targeted high-risk populations;
- multi-session HE/RR workshops, featuring the *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* curriculum for at-risk youth and their families; and
- multi-session HE/RR workshops, featuring the *Partners In Prevention* curricula for at-risk women and MSM.

In addition, qualified project staff provide intensive prevention case management (PCM) counseling sessions to individuals at highest risk for HIV infection.

**Project POW!** staff collaborate with a number of New Brunswick-based programs to provide HIV prevention services to people at high risk for HIV infection, including Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen, the Open Door, the Hub Teen Center, Adult Learning Center and the Pride Center.

### **KEY CONTACTS**

**The Hyacinth AIDS Foundation**  
78 New Street, Second floor  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

**Principal contact:** Jacqueline White,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 732-246-0204  
Fax: 732-246-4137  
E-mail: [pownb@eclipse.net](mailto:pownb@eclipse.net)

**Secondary contact:** Diana Santiago,  
Director of Prevention  
Phone: 732-246-0204  
Fax: 732-246-4137  
E-Mail: [dsantiago@eclipse.net](mailto:dsantiago@eclipse.net)

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

*Hyacinth AIDS Foundation - New Brunswick*

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**New Jersey Association on Correction**

986 South Broad Street

Trenton, NJ 08611

**Principal contact:** Maureen Sumners,  
Southern Regional Manager

Phone: 732-247-2770, ext.19

Fax: 732-214-1367

**Middlesex County Health Department**

75 Bayard Street

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

**Principal contact:** Debra Gash,  
Director of Nursing

Phone: 732-745-3120

Fax: 732-745-2568

## RARITAN BAY MEDICAL CENTER (RBMC)

### ***LATINOS UNITED FOR PREVENTION AND EDUCATION (L.U.P.E.): AN HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR LATINO WOMEN AND YOUTH***

The **L.U.P.E.** project, a collaborative project between RBMC and the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (PRAHD), directs its activities to those who are at-risk for HIV infection due to difficulties associated with poverty, substance abuse, adolescent pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections. **L.U.P.E.** serves the community of Perth Amboy, in an effort to reduce the risk of HIV transmission. Project staff conduct street and community outreach in conjunction with HE/RR sessions. Additionally, staff provide prevention case management (PCM) sessions, which include behavior change counseling. All services are free of charge and are available in both English and Spanish.

As part of the **L.U.P.E.** Project's women=s component, intensive outreach is conducted in nontraditional settings, such as bodegas, laundromats, and salons. Outreach activities provide information in a non-threatening manner by utilizing individuals who are culturally and linguistically compatible with the community. Single and multi-session HE/RR workshops are conducted at various sites in the community. The workshops provide women with the information and the skills they need to reduce their risk of HIV infection. PCM services are also provided to Latinas at highest risk, with the overall goal of preventing HIV transmission and infection through protective behavioral strategies and health-promoting techniques. The **L.U.P.E.** project also targets HIV positive clients from RBMC's Early Intervention Clinic with PCM services.

PRAHD coordinates the adolescent component of the **L.U.P.E.** project. Intensive outreach is conducted at various sites in Perth Amboy where high-risk youth are likely to be found. Multi-session HE/RR workshops utilize the *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* curriculum. Youth are invited to receive additional training to become peer educators. Outreach and informational sessions are also held for parents with the goal of facilitating communication within families. PCM is offered to appropriate participants who are more likely to have difficulty initiating and sustaining safer behavior.

The collaboration of these two agencies enhances the services each provides their clients. In this union of grass roots community involvement for HIV prevention, messages to halt the spread of HIV have become more effective in reducing the incidence of HIV in the Latino community.

#### **KEY CONTACTS**

**Raritan Bay Medical Center**  
530 New Brunswick Avenue  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

**Primary contact:** Carmen Rios,  
L.U.P.E. Project Coordinator  
Phone: 732-324-5028  
Fax: 732-324-4838  
E-mail: [crios@rbmc.org](mailto:crios@rbmc.org)

**Puerto Rican Association  
for Human Development**  
100 First Street  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

**Primary contact:** Jose Angulo,  
L.U.P.E. Youth Coordinator  
Phone: 732-442-1081  
Fax: 732-826-3082

## THE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL JERSEY FOUNDATION

### ***PREVENTION RESOURCE NETWORK (PRN) PROGRAM***

The Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Foundation (VNA) is a voluntary, nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion, restoration, and maintenance of the health status of individuals and the community. The **PRN** program is a collaborative effort between the VNA, which serves as lead agency, and Checkmate, Inc., both in Asbury Park. The **PRN** program features a complete continuum of primary, secondary, and tertiary HIV prevention efforts, including a full range of health and social support services.

The goal of the **PRN** program is to reduce the spread of HIV infection in the Asbury Park area by modifying the high-risk behavior of individuals. This is achieved through intensive HE/RR workshops and PCM counseling sessions. Three teams have been organized to address the HIV prevention needs of the **PRN** project's targeted high-risk populations: African American and Latino youth, women, and MSM. These teams consist of both professional staff and peer educators who incorporate culturally and linguistically competent HIV prevention interventions, maximizing natural support systems and altering risk-related behaviors through a collaborative process of peer relationships and professional interventions. All activities (peer-mediated, street outreach, HE/RR group multi-sessions, and PCM) within the **PRN** program look to achieve cultural and sexual diversity, interdisciplinary teamwork, and consumer input.

The **PRN** Program provides the following services:

- X OraSure HIV counseling and testing;
- X client enrollment through outreach;
- X PCM counseling sessions;
- X multi-session, peer-mediated HIV HE/RR groups; and
- X referral to health care services of the VNA of Central Jersey Community Health Center in Asbury Park

**PRN** has received positive responses from the community that far exceeded expectations. Outreach effort has opened the door to networking opportunities within the community. As a result, the program has gained an enthusiastic and growing pool of volunteers. The effort has included: yearly participation in the New Jersey Gay Pride Festival held in Asbury Park; community outreach and education; several women=s events at the Hispanic Affairs and Resource Center; awareness programs at the newly renovated Baronet Theater; and several programs especially designed to appeal to MSM.

**PRN** has, through persistent outreach efforts, developed an HE/RR group which targets the hard-to-reach transgender, transsexual, and "drag" community in Asbury Park. **PRN** program staff host educational workshops for women who partner with women.

Permanent outreach sites have been established at several gay bars, social service agencies, street corners, and along the Boardwalk Astroll@, an area with high levels of sexual activity exchanged for money, drugs, and recreation. On average, approximately 200 individuals are contacted monthly during regular outreach effort.

**PRN** continues to make new inroads with hard-to-reach, medically under-served/high-risk population groups. To do so, **PRN** has collaborated with the African American Interfaith community outreach by providing assistance to the HIV prevention programs to churches in and around the Asbury Park area.

## **KEY CONTACTS**

**VNA of Central Jersey Foundation**  
625 Bangs Avenue  
Asbury Park, NJ 07712

**Principal contact:** Joe Traficante,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 732-502-5100  
Fax: 732-774-6006  
E-mail: [VNACJOE@aol.com](mailto:VNACJOE@aol.com)

**Secondary contact:** Mary Ann Vitiello,  
Phone: 732-502-5128  
Fax: 732-774-6006

**Checkmate, Inc.**  
550 Cookman Avenue  
Asbury Park, NJ 07712

**Principal contact:** Georgia Berry,  
Executive Director  
Phone: 732-774-3100  
Fax: 732-774-3220

## HISPANIC MULTI PURPOSE SERVICE CENTER (HMPSC)

### ***WOMEN FOR EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS (WEPHA)***

The **HMPSC** is a nonprofit organization providing a wide array of social services to the people of Passaic County. The **WEPHA** program targets Latina women, out-of-school and gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgenders and questioning (GLBTQ) youth and MSM to reduce the spread of HIV infection by altering the high-risk behavior for those at highest risk for HIV infection. This is accomplished through a variety of interventions including street outreach, health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) multi-sessions, one-on-one prevention case management (PCM) counseling sessions, and HIV OraSure counseling and testing.

#### **Women**

Women at highest risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV infection are targeted through street and community outreach in Paterson. Outreach activities provide HIV prevention information and focus on recruiting clients for single and multi-session HE/RR workshops and/or PCM counseling sessions. In addition, outreach workers refer women to a variety of services and resources needed to support HIV prevention efforts.

**WEPHA** staff conduct small group HE/RR HIV prevention multi-sessions. The focus of these sessions centers on skills building, particularly in the areas of: communication/negotiation; decision-making related to high-risk sexual behavior and drug/alcohol abuse; self-esteem; relationships; attitudes toward invulnerability; cultural issues; and risk/harm-reduction strategies (e.g., consistent and correct use of latex condoms and clean needles). Interventions are delivered in a culturally competent manner, utilizing the *Partners in Prevention* curriculum.

#### **Youth**

The **WEPHA** program recruits out-of-school youth through street outreach and referral from other community service providers. Youth are enrolled in HE/RR classes which utilize the *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* curriculum. Small groups meet for three, two-hour sessions each week (over the course of three weeks) during which time participants are provided with the knowledge, motivation, and skills necessary to modify high-risk behavior. Youth who are at highest risk for HIV infection are invited to participate in one-on-one PCM counseling sessions.

#### ***Youth Program Drop-In Center***

The leading cause of HIV infections among youth ages 13-24 is unprotected sexual intercourse with an HIV-infected person. The rate of sexually transmitted HIV infections among young MSM is of special concern in New Jersey; the number of young, HIV-infected MSM account for that vast majority of adolescent men who become infected with HIV each year. To address the special HIV prevention needs of GLBTQ youth in the Paterson area, HMPSC has gathered many of the HIV prevention services offered to high-risk youth in a separate, safe space drop-in center designed specifically for high-risk youth who may engage in same-gender sex. At the drop-in



center, high-risk youth receive individual and group-level HIV prevention interventions that assist them in reducing their risk for HIV infection and offer support and guidance to confront life's challenges.

## **KEY CONTACTS**

**The Hispanic Multi Purpose Service Center  
Youth Drop-in Center**  
45 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Paterson, NJ 07504

**Principal contact:** Patricia Guerra,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 973-684-1129  
Fax: 973-684-1221  
E-mail: [youthvictory@aol.com](mailto:youthvictory@aol.com)

**The Hispanic Multi Purpose Service Center**  
911 East 23rd Street  
Paterson, NJ 07513

**Secondary contact:** Maria Magda O'Keefe,  
Executive Director  
Phone: 973-684-3320  
Fax: 973-684-7442

## HYACINTH AIDS FOUNDATION PATERSON

### PROJECT *POW!* (PREVENTION OUTREACH WORKS) PATERSON

**Project *POW!* - Paterson** is a comprehensive health education/risk reduction (HE/RR) program targeting African American women and youth at high risk for HIV infection in Paterson. The **Project *POW!* - Paterson** concept is based upon the belief that members of a community are best suited to deliver HIV prevention messages to their neighbors. **Project *POW!* - Paterson** prepares a number of competent peer leaders to saturate targeted areas with accurate HIV prevention information. In addition, staff provide access to prevention services designed to support and sustain behavior change for HIV transmission risk reduction.

Through extensive outreach activities in neighborhoods containing large numbers of people at-risk for HIV infection, the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation and its sub-grantees identify peer educators to participate in multi-session HE/RR interventions, training these individuals to provide interventions in community settings. Peer educators serve as an integral part of a team that develops tailored programs meeting the unique HIV prevention needs of targeted groups and local populations. Ongoing, individualized, one-on-one prevention case management (PCM) counseling sessions are offered for those individuals at highest risk for HIV infection.

**Project *POW!* - Paterson** delivers multi-session interventions at community-based organizations, schools, and churches. Staff utilize the *Partners in Prevention* curriculum for high-risk women and the *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* curriculum for high-risk youth. Additionally, project staff recruit a small number of high-risk youth to participate in the ***POW! Club***, an intensive, peer-led intervention employing youth to provide HIV prevention messages to other young people. A **Project *POW!* - Paterson** outreach worker collaborates with the Paterson perinatal project to provide HIV prevention services to women who are either drug users, incarcerated, undocumented, non-English speaking, uninsured, homeless, teen-aged or who are unaware of or in denial about their risk for being HIV infected.

The Hyacinth AIDS Foundation serves as lead agency for **Project *POW!* – Paterson**. Sub-grantees include the New Jersey Association on Correction (NJAC) and the Paterson Youth Services Bureau (PYSB). NJAC staff coordinate prevention programming which targets women offenders and survivors of domestic violence, while PYSB staff coordinate HIV prevention activities targeting youth.

## KEY CONTACTS

### **The Hyacinth AIDS Foundation**

100 Hamilton Plaza, Suite 421  
Paterson, NJ 07505

**Principal contact:** Doris Morrison,  
Project Coordinator

Phone: 973-278-7636

Fax: 973-278-2851

E-mail: [powpassaic@eclipse.net](mailto:powpassaic@eclipse.net)

**Secondary contact:** Diana Santiago,  
Director of Prevention

Phone: 732-246-0204

Fax: 732-246-4137

E-mail: [dsantiago@eclipse.net](mailto:dsantiago@eclipse.net)

### **New Jersey Association on Correction**

The Millicent Fenwick House  
369-371 Market Street  
Paterson, NJ 07501

**Principal contact:** Darcella Sessomes,  
Regional Administrator

Phone: 973-278-7205

Fax: 973-278-7316

### **Youth Services Bureau**

295 Broadway Avenue  
Paterson, New Jersey 07501

**Principle contact:** Evelyn Barbie,  
Program Director

Phone: 973-881-6963

Fax: 973-881-8313

## **NORTHEAST LIFE SKILLS ASSOCIATES, INC. (NLSA)**

### ***Project A.L.P.H.A.***

**Project A.L.P.H.A.** (Adolescents and Ladies Preventing HIV/AIDS) is the title of NLSA's HIV prevention project located in the Passaic area. Prevention efforts target African American women and youth at high risk of acquiring and/or transmitting HIV infection. HIV prevention strategies include street/community outreach (SCO), health education/risk reduction group sessions (HE/RR) and one-on-one prevention case management (PCM) counseling sessions. An emphasis is placed on skills-building, correct and consistent use of safer sex products, negotiation/refusal skills within relationships, and harm and risk reduction techniques.

**Project A.L.P.H.A.** prevention strategies are delivered in the streets, housing developments, schools, community-based organizations, churches, and other areas identified as locations where high-risk women and youth gather. Collaborative agreements have been developed with 11 other community organizations that provide health/support services inclusive of mental health, primary medical care, early intervention, youth gynecological care, social services, and spiritual enrichment.

**Project A.L.P.H.A.** utilizes both individual and group-level interventions. SCO includes street outreach and community education presentations that serve as springboards for referral to additional HE/RR and PCM counseling. Multi-session HE/RR workshops are culturally and linguistically tailored to meet the needs of targeted groups and, when appropriate, include individual counseling and education. PCM multi-sessions include individualized risk reduction counseling and referral to ancillary services.

Passaic Beth Israel Hospital (PBIH) collaborates as a sub-grantee of **Project A.L.P.H.A.**, and targets high-risk youth; while Passaic Beth Israel Health First provides gynecological/STI testing, pregnancy counseling, and risk reduction counseling.

### **KEY CONTACTS**

**Northeast Life Skills Associates Inc.**  
121 Howe Avenue  
Passaic, NJ 07055

**Principal contact:** Jerry C. Dillard,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 973-777-2962  
Fax: 973-777-7623  
E-mail: [jcdalph2@aol.com](mailto:jcdalph2@aol.com)

**Health First at Passaic Beth Israel Hospital**  
70 Parker Avenue  
Passaic, NJ 07055

**Principal contact:**  
Judith Anne Zimmermann,  
Youth Link Coordinator  
Phone: 973-365-6020  
Fax: 973-365-5067

## **PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF GREATER NORTHERN NEW JERSEY (PPGNNJ)**

### ***ALL TOGETHER NOW: A COMMUNITY-WIDE CAMPAIGN FOR HIV PREVENTION***

**All Together Now: A Community-wide Campaign for HIV Prevention** is a multi-faceted project addressing the unmet prevention needs of people at-risk for HIV infection in Plainfield. **All Together Now** has been implemented by PPGNNJ, which is New Jersey's largest provider of reproductive health care services for women and their partners. The PPGNNJ education department, the nationally renowned Center for Family Life Education, provides training, education, and resources related to sexual health issues. PPGNNJ and Plainfield's other major HIV prevention providers, including the Plainfield Health Center (PHC), work collaboratively to enhance and coordinate HIV prevention services in Plainfield, particularly targeting high-risk women, men who have sex with men (MSM), and youth.

**All Together Now's** health educators and peer educators seek out women, MSM, and out-of-school youth to link them to HIV counseling, testing, and referrals to reproductive health services. An incentive program helps to increase the number of individuals returning for HIV test results, ensuring early referral to PCM, HE/RR sessions, and treatment. High-risk clients are channeled into multi-session HE/RR workshops where they benefit from the assistance of trained peer educators.

**All Together Now** seeks to change community behavioral norms through a community-wide, social marketing campaign. Utilizing press releases, cable public service announcements, and various community events, i.e., the annual Plainfield World AIDS Day commemoration, and the National HIV Testing Day, project staff provide the community with information about HIV prevention, safer sex, and local health services.

Routine collaboration meetings assist the Plainfield's principal HIV prevention service providers to avoid duplication of services, ensuring that program goals and objectives are achieved. A variety of prevention services are coordinated with the Plainfield Health Center, which provides PCM, HIV counseling and testing, and other related HIV/AIDS medical services.

#### **KEY CONTACTS**

**Planned Parenthood of Greater  
Northern New Jersey**  
129 Park Avenue  
Plainfield, NJ 07060

**Principal contact:** Melissa Haithcox,  
Project Coordinator  
Phone: 908-756-3765  
Fax: 908-756-3060  
E-mail: [unionplannedparenthood2@juno.com](mailto:unionplannedparenthood2@juno.com)

**Secondary contact:** Bill Taverner,  
Director of Education  
Phone: 973-539-9580, ext. 149  
Fax: 973-539-3828  
E-mail: [btaverner@ppfa.org](mailto:btaverner@ppfa.org)

**PROCEED, INC.**

### ***COMMUNITY ORGANIZED TO PREVENT AIDS (COPA)***

The COPA project was designed to provide linguistically and culturally competent HIV prevention and health promotion services to high-risk African American and Latino populations in Elizabeth. Project goals include the reduction of transmission and acquisition of HIV infection and assisting high-risk African American and Latino youth, women, and men who have sex with men (MSM) to alter their high-risk drug and sexual behavior. These goals are achieved through intensive outreach, culturally competent HE/RR activities, PCM, counseling and testing. The following are further specifications of the COPA project's goals:

- § provide linguistically and culturally competent, intensive HE/RR and PCM sessions;
- § facilitate the development of peer support networks through support groups, and peer-mediated education;
- § facilitate the development of skills needed to maintain healthy behaviors through one-on-one client-centered prevention counseling sessions; and
- § to assure access to HIV antibody counseling and testing, while providing referrals to secondary medical and social services and community-level interventions.

Women targeted for **COPA** project activities include injecting drug users (IDUs), sexual partners of either IDUs and/or men at high risk for HIV infection, those who have sex with MSM, commercial sex workers, women who have sex with other women, and those living with HIV. Through a series of HE/RR sessions, COPA staff provide high-risk women with the skills necessary to prevent HIV infection. Women who successfully complete these sessions are invited to receive additional training to teach other women about HIV, assisting their peers in accessing vital services to support disease prevention and health promotion. High-risk, transient women who would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in retreats or twelve-week programs are provided with a series of intensive HE/RR sessions designed to meet their specific prevention needs. The *Partners in Prevention* curriculum is utilized in all HE/RR sessions. Case managers provide one-on-one PCM counseling to women at highest risk.

MSM targeted by **COPA** project activities include: gay and bisexual men of color, MSM who are commercial sex workers, MSM who do not identify as gay or bisexual, and MSM living with HIV. HE/RR sessions utilize the *Partners in Prevention* intervention to promote HIV risk reduction behavior change. MSM who have successfully completed HE/RR sessions and have received appropriate additional training are recruited to educate other MSM. These clients serve a resource in assisting MSM to access vital services regarding disease prevention and health promotion. MSM at greatest risk are invited to participate in one-on-one PCM counseling sessions.

Adolescents/Youth (13-24 years old) targeted by **COPA** project activities include: gay and bisexual youth; homeless; youth out of school; commercial sex workers; and those living with HIV. High-risk youth are provided with HE/RR sessions. Daytime retreats that utilize the *Be Proud! Be Responsible!* curriculum and other relevant HIV prevention materials to enhance the skills of participants.

## **PREVENTION METHODOLOGIES**

HE/RR is comprised of a three-tier effort in the form of one and/or two-day formats and multi-session HE/RR groups. Sessions address relationships, HIV risk and knowledge, self-esteem, negotiation and communication skills, condom use, trigger management, maintenance, and relapse prevention strategies.

PCM is provided to all clients at highest risk having complex, multiple problems who are willing to commit to weekly sessions for a minimum of six months. Short and long-term goals are developed in order to assess and address barriers, behavioral changes, and/or effective modifications.

Street and Community Outreach is the principal means of recruiting and retaining clients into prevention components, education, and delivery services. This effort provides life-saving information to high-risk individuals, many of whom have no connection to prevention, drug treatment, or medical services.

Support Groups reinforce knowledge provided by HE/RR activities and empower participants to become effective peer leaders. MSM support groups meet weekly in English and/or Spanish.

Trained counselors utilizing the OraSure HIV testing method provide HIV Counseling and Testing to increase awareness of the importance of knowing one's serostatus and to channel clients at risk for HIV infection and those already infected with HIV into appropriate prevention and/or treatment services.

## **KEY CONTACT**

**PROCEED, INC.**  
1126 Dickinson Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201

**Principal contact:** Nilda Soto,  
Program Coordinator  
Phone: 908-351-7727  
Fax: 908-353-5185  
E-mail: [nsoto@PROCEEDINC.com](mailto:nsoto@PROCEEDINC.com)

## **DIVISION OF AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL (DOAPC)**

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services  
Division of AIDS Prevention and Control  
50 East State Street  
P.O. Box 363  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0363

### **PREVENTION AND EDUCATION (PAE) UNIT**

Steven Saunders, Director  
Phone: 609-984-6050  
Fax: 609-292-6009  
E-mail: [errol.saunders@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:errol.saunders@doh.state.nj.us)

The PAE unit is made up of three major work groups.

- \$ Technical Assistance and Capacity Building
- \$ Grant and Data Management
- \$ Office of the Service Director

The **Technical Assistance and Capacity Building** work group coordinates, designs, develops, conducts, and evaluates training programs on HIV prevention interventions, HIV counseling and testing, and other related areas. This work group provides skills building tools for health care providers, health service agencies, correctional institutions, and the general public, along with the coordination of perinatal HIV prevention activities drop-in centers and other new PAE unit initiatives. Specialized or on-site training may be arranged, where and when possible. Additionally, it is the work group's responsibility to provide information and HIV prevention program-related technical assistance to the departments of the New Jersey State Government, DOAPC grantees, community-based agencies and organizations, and the general public. Other tasks include: coordination of special prevention projects, such as World AIDS Day events and the New Jersey Teen Prevention Program (Teen PEP); coordination of the DOAPC's statewide HIV Prevention Literature Distribution Program; and HIV Prevention Materials Review Panel.

Phone: 609-984-6050      **Principal contact:** Fred Vasapolli  
Fax: 609-292-6009      E-mail: [alfred.vasapolli@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:alfred.vasapolli@doh.state.nj.us)

Technical Assistance: Dan Lauricella  
E-mail: [daniel.lauricella@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:daniel.lauricella@doh.state.nj.us)

Capacity Building: Maureen Wolski  
E-mail: [maureen.wolski@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:maureen.wolski@doh.state.nj.us)



Chelsea Ginsburg  
E-mail: [chelsea.ginsburg@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:chelsea.ginsburg@doh.state.nj.us)

Corrections training: Dave Mesinoff  
E-mail: [dave.mesinoff@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:dave.mesinoff@doh.state.nj.us)

Course registration: Cindy Mimmo  
E-mail: [cindy.mimmo@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:cindy.mimmo@doh.state.nj.us)

Danita J. Graves  
E-mail: [danita.graves@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:danita.graves@doh.state.nj.us)

The **Grants Management and Program Evaluation** work group provides programmatic oversight of HIV prevention health service grants to assure that stated services are delivered according to the terms of grants, memoranda of understanding, etc. It also oversees grantee process and outcome evaluation data management, develops reports on grantee performance and collaborates with other staff in the unit to assist grantees with development plans, etc.

A program management officer (PMO) who is responsible for technical and programmatic monitoring is assigned from this work group to each HIV prevention grantee. Questions related to programmatic matters and project objectives are referred to each project's PMO who is responsible for maintaining grant files and facilitating the provision of technical assistance. Questions related to process and outcome data, including perinatal and drop-in center data, should be directed to data analysts of this work group.

Phone: 609-984-6050      **Principal contact:** Dr. Raj Patel  
Fax: 609-292-6009      E-mail: [raj.patel@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:raj.patel@doh.state.nj.us)

**Program Management Officers:** Skip Drum  
E-mail: [evelyn.drum@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:evelyn.drum@doh.state.nj.us)

Joanne El-Amin  
E-mail: [joanne.elamin@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:joanne.elamin@doh.state.nj.us)

Clara Gregory  
E-mail: [clara.gregory@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:clara.gregory@doh.state.nj.us)

Acie Harris  
E-mail: [acie.harris@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:acie.harris@doh.state.nj.us)

John Unger  
E-mail: [john.unger@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:john.unger@doh.state.nj.us)

**Process Data Analyst:** Rekha Damaraju  
E-mail: [rekha.damaraju@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:rekha.damaraju@doh.state.nj.us)

**Outcome Data Analyst:** Andrew Trovato  
E-mail: [andrew.trovato@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:andrew.trovato@doh.state.nj.us)

The **Office of the Service Director** ensures that the process of HIV prevention community planning is ongoing. Questions and concerns about the community planning process should be addressed to this office.

Phone: 609-984-6050

**Principal contact:**

Steven Saunders,  
Director

Phone: 609-984-6050

Fax: 609-292-6009

E-mail: [errol.saunders@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:errol.saunders@doh.state.nj.us)

**Secondary contact:**

Maryanne P. Van Horn,  
Secretarial Assistant

Phone: 609-984-6050

Fax: 609-292-6009

E-mail: [maryanne.vanhorn@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:maryanne.vanhorn@doh.state.nj.us)

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES UNIT**

This service unit ensures that consumers of DOAPC services have continuity of needed services and uninterrupted funding. Their primary duties include:

- \$ processing of health service grant applications, budget modifications and budget revisions; and
- \$ coordination of the grant application process with the various service units within the DOAPC.

Once grants are in place, a grant management officer (GMO) from this work group is assigned to each grantee for the duration of the grant period. Questions relating to fiscal concerns, such as budgets and allowable costs, are directed to a grantee's GMO. This work group is responsible for the fiscal management of more than 140 health services grants and other contractual agreements.

Phone: 609-984-5888  
Fax: 609-292-4244

**Principal contacts:** Dolores Ignas  
E-mail: [dolores.ignas@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:dolores.ignas@doh.state.nj.us)

Joan Fowler  
E-mail: [joan.fowler@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:joan.fowler@doh.state.nj.us)

**Grant Management Officers:** Herb Goff  
E-mail: [herb.goff@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:herb.goff@doh.state.nj.us)

Ray Graziani  
E-mail: [ray.graziani@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:ray.graziani@doh.state.nj.us)

Dave Martin  
E-mail: [dave.martin@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:dave.martin@doh.state.nj.us)

Geraldine Jacobs  
E-mail: [Geraldine.Jacobs@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:Geraldine.Jacobs@doh.state.nj.us)

Michael Kozlosky  
E-mail: [michael.koslosky@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:michael.koslosky@doh.state.nj.us)

Charles Taylor  
E-mail: [charles.taylor@doh.state.nj.us](mailto:charles.taylor@doh.state.nj.us)